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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/648,657	08/25/2000	Yoshimasa Chikama	55058(820)	5508

7590

05/09/2002

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EXAMINER

ALANKO, ANITA KAREN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

6

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

MF-6

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/648,657	CHIKAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anita K Alanko	1746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 6, the term "low" is a relative term that renders the metes and bounds of the claim unclear.

Claims 2-14 fail to cure the indefiniteness of their base claim, and are therefore also rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 10-245,444.

JP 10-245,444 discloses a method of forming a polyimide resin filming, followed by modifying the surface with KOH, reducing metal ions and plating (see Example, paragraphs [0016]-[0018] of translation).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-245,444 in view of Larsson et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,303,278 B1).

The discussion of JP 10-245,444 from above is repeated here. As to claim 14, JP 10-245,444 discloses to use a solution to reduce the nickel metal ions to nickel. Larsson teaches that an equivalent alternative technique for using a solution for the reduction is a photochemical technique (col.5, lines 34-41). Larsson teaches that ultraviolet light is useful for the reduction process (col.7, line 35). It would have been obvious to use ultraviolet light to reduce the metal ions to metal in the method of JP 10-245,444 because Larsson teaches that this is a useful, functionally equivalent technique compared to solution processing.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-245,444 in view of Iwasaki et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,323,534).

The discussion of JP 10-245,444 from above is repeated here. As to claim 5, JP 10-245,444 does not teach add catalyst to the resin. Iwasaki teaches that adding a catalyst to resins is conventional in order to prepare for subsequent plating (col.11, lines 65-65). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to add the catalyst to the resin in the method of JP 10-245,444 in order to save time and money and decrease contamination by not requiring

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multiple steps for forming catalyst films, and because it is a conventional technique in plating as taught by Iwasaki.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art shows methods of forming metal films on organic films such as polyimide.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anita K Alanko whose telephone number is 703-305-7708. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-1:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski can be reached on 703-308-4333. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9057 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Anita K. Alanko
Anita K Alanko
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1746

AKA
May 6, 2002